



IGLESIA DE CRISTO:
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December 2007

Bridging the Nations

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Christian or disciple?

In today's religious circles the term "Christian" has become synonymous with "church goer". The question the church in Santiago has been exploring is the "are Christians disciples?" In Acts 11:26, "disciples were first called Christians" so the roots of a Christian should be in being a disciple of Jesus Christ. But in today's religious circles Christian is often the farthest thing from being a disciple of Jesus. The church in Providencia has been learning the true meaning of becoming a disciple of Jesus. Looking into Jewish culture the concept of the disciple is much more than a "learner" it is a person who desires and works at becoming like his master. The disciple wants to walk so closely to his master that "the dust from his feet falls on him" (paraphrase Ray Vanderlaan). Closeness to the master and teacher is the sole purpose of the disciple. When those principles are applied to our Christian walk it can be seen clearly that the average Christian in our churches is not a true disciple of Jesus.

What does a disciple do? Returning to the Jewish history a disciple memorized Old Testament scripture (1st 5 books by age 6 and the rest by age 12) and they walked closely to assimilate their teacher's behaviors and teachings. If that is what a disciple does then as disciple of Jesus we must read, memorize and assimilate the teachings of Jesus. The goal of a disciple is to be a reflection of his teacher (2 Cor. 4:6). The disciple is to be a representation of Jesus to the world around us by the changes in his own life as he follows closely the actions and teachings of Jesus.

How is your discipleship...

1. **Do you know Jesus intimately?** How many of us have read a gospel in the last year? Can Christians be disciples if they do not follow the footsteps of Jesus?
2. **Do you know Jesus' teaching?** Have you read the New Testament in the last 6 months? Can a disciple know the teachings without reading the message regularly?
3. **Do you walk as Jesus walked?** How much time to you spend preaching the "good news" to the lost, caring for the needy, loving the unlovable, forgiving the wrong doers, living for the future with God, fervent in prayer, searching for lost sheep, living in purity and sinlessness, etc.? Is a disciple being like Jesus if he is not about doing the same things?
4. **Do you have the Word in heart?** How much scripture is stored up in your heart and mind? Is the processes of memorization of Scripture long forgotten? Can a disciple be like Jesus if the Word of God is not in his heart and mind?
5. **Is Jesus making an impact on your life?** Almost all the people who truly decided to be disciples of Jesus were never the same person. After a close encounter with Jesus a person cannot be the same as before but must be a completely changed person. Can a disciple be a disciple if he still lives the same way after becoming a Christian as he did before?

The great thing is that there is always hope of becoming a better disciple. If you want to be disciplined by Jesus walk in his step using these simple steps. Be a **R.E.A.L.** disciple.

- Read regularly the gospels and N. T.
- Emit Christ in your life by words & deeds
- Assimilate the word of God (memorize)
- Live for your eternity

Prayer requests

Please pray for:

- Please pray for the kids' schooling. We have 2/3 of the money needed for the cost of schooling next year.
- Pray for the couples we are discipling that God will use us to show them how to build a solid Christian family.
- Pray for summer activities especially the evangelistic campaign in January.

Zane's Zeroing-in

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

2 Timothy 2:2

Since October the Perkins family has run nonstop with church, school and personal activities. It is great that summer is here and the kids will be at home. We are praying that it will give us the chance to slow down and be a normal family. The family is great and we are preparing for a hot summer. But I really want to let you know what is going on right now in my life. Currently I (and Tae when time permits) am discipling 3 young families and a single young man.

Aníbal and Natalia are a couple who have been married about 2 years and he was baptized about 2 months ago. Luis and Veronica have been at the church for some time and we have been working with them almost since we came to Chile. Michel and Juliana are another young couple with a 3 month old baby. They are leading the hospitality ministry at the church. The young man is Mauricio.

Also functioning the last couple of months with no plans to stop are the 2 small

groups we participate in. It is amazing how quickly our schedule filled up in Oct, Nov, and Dec. Another group that has just concluded has been our Growth group from Marriage Encounter and from our group there are 2 couples in Bible studies. Please continue to pray for us as I am teaching Sunday Bible class and preaching in January. God is blessing us with opportunities pray that will keep the balance that is best for our family and the church.

Tae's Turn

Hello, all you wonderful people out there! Once again, it is an odd feeling to be scrambling around getting things ready for Christmas just as summer vacation is starting. Oh, how I wish we could share with you all that we have been learning of the Word! Our small group just finished an in-depth study of the book of James and let me tell you, all of us felt like we were sitting in the hot seat every week! One of our dear sisters who has been a

Christian just over a year now used to say, “I don't understand these people that say the Christian life is so hard. I mean, we all have problems, but how can we complain when we are in Jesus and have God on our side?” Well, after this study she has come to realize that dying to self truly IS a struggle and that the humility that God desires from each one of us in every situation is not easily demonstrated all the time. She could have

easily gotten discouraged; however she, like the rest of us, came back every week for another healthy scolding from the Word. One of the greatest blessings from being in the Word with others is being able to see it produce the same kinds of change in everyone. It is such an honor and privilege to serve God in this way and we thank you for your part in making it happen. God bless you all!

Naomi's Notes

School is out and vacation is here!! For the end of the year ceremony we made some traditional English personal piñata-type things called English crackers. It was such a fun and simple activity that daddy thought it would be a good idea to make some for the children from the foster home that our church sponsors. So we

made them for the Christmas party last Sunday. The kids had a great time opening their English crackers and finding candy and little toys in them. It felt good to make something for those kids. I am so ready to have a change in my routine. Second grade is already a distant memory, and I really don't want to think about

third grade yet. We are planning lots of neat things this summer like camping for mom's birthday, swimming lessons, maybe piano lessons and lots of reading. We have already made apple cinnamon scented Christmas ornaments and I can't wait to see what else mom has up her sleeve. Love ya!

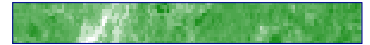


Isaac's Info

Hi, everybody! It's summertime again and we are so excited to be out of school. Of course, I'm going to miss recess but not so much the reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. My mom assures me however that I will get plenty of the 3 R's this summer and she already has several projects planned for us to do. Summer also means that our small group

Bible study moves back to the building instead of at our house. This makes me kind of sad because I loved getting things ready and then helping serve the food and stuff. Oh, I'll still help at the church but it's just not the same as in my house where I know where everything is and I can reach what I need. Simeon was so excited about the pool

that he didn't have room to tell you that he has learned to ride his bike without training wheels. It actually just took two days for him to learn! I'm going to have to really keep on my toes because in a few years there will be some stiff competition between us and well, I am the older brother! Well, it's really hot so I'm going to go for a dip in the pool!

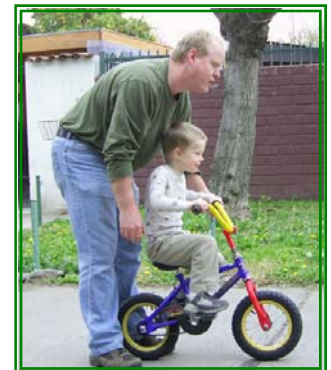


Simeon's Sayings

Hi! I just want to let everyone know that after pre-school is out this week you will find me in our new pool in the backyard!! Our grandparents sent money for Christmas and since Christmas is in the summer time here and we are going to be here

and not in the States, Mommy and Daddy decided to get us a BIG pool. It is so big that when I stand the water reaches my chin. I'm so glad that mommy and daddy didn't wait till Christmas to give it to us. I can already swim half way across the pool

and I have handed down my life vest to my little brother. The only problem is that the water is still pretty cold and after about 10 minutes we get out and lie on the warm tiles till we stop shivering and then it's back into the water we go! Splash!



Enoch's Explanations

Hola! We've got two more days of pre-school and even though I'm going to miss learning neat new words like "gross" and "boring", it's going to be good to be at home with my brothers and sister. Simeon graduates and for the end of the year

show we are putting on a circus for our families. Simeon is a clown and I get to be an elephant. At least I get to go back next year even though I'm sad that Simeon will be going to the big school with Naomi and Isaac and I will have to go to my little

school all by myself. I am very much enjoying being able to play with my older brothers and sisters but I like it the most when they let me make the rules (which isn't very often). Bye!



- Pray that our family will enjoy the summer in Santiago because next year we will be in the USA.

- Please continue to pray for Tae's dad and family.

“...in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Phillipians 4:6



and executed. The Hogar Luz de Cristo is a children's foster home for abused children. The church has been helping them for about 3 years and the home has children that range from 2-16 years of age removed from their homes because of abuse (verbal, physical, and sexual). There are about 25 kids in the home and the church is trying to build a closer relationship with them. The hospitality committee planned a Christmas activity for the children that lasted all afternoon. Members sponsored the children bringing the gifts (clothes, toys, etc.). It was really refreshing to see church members sitting, eating lunch, and playing with underprivileged children. What a blessing it is to share with others.

Celebrating Our Blessings

December 16, 2007 was a mile stone for the church. The hospitality ministry hosted a Christmas party in honor of the children at the Hogar Luz de Cristo. This party was completely Chilean planned

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:27

Calendar of Events

Weekly

Sunday

Worship and class

Practicing hospitality (i.e. new members, visitors, non-Christians in our home or out to lunch)

Monday

Leadership planning (Zane & Tae)

Soccer with Dads from kid's school

Tuesday

Team/staff/ministry meeting

Discipleship time (Zane — Robinson)

Teaching Preparation (Small Group study)

Wednesday

Sermon preparation (Zane)

Discipleship time (Zane—Luis & Veronica)

Small group

Thursday

Teaching Preparation (Discipling)

Small group

Discipleship time (Michel & Juliana)

Friday

Practicing hospitality (i.e. new members, visitors, non-Christians, etc. in our home)

Saturday

Discipleship time (Anibal & Natalia)

Summer Visitors

January

Ricardo Martinez (Colombia)

Roger Moon & Keith Feerer (California)

February

Hop & Marty Paden

(Louisiana)



Evangelistic Campaign January 2008

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...significado...

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